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REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTICES.

A LATE PAPER ON BIRDS.¹— Mr. William Brewster's recent visit to West Virginia results in a series of notes on a hundred species of birds, one-fifth of which are *Sylvicolidae*, and one-eighth *Fringillidae*. The observations were made from about the beginning to the height of the "season," and include some extended biographical sketches of certain species with which the New England ornithologist is less familiar than he is with some others, such having naturally attracted the writer's special attention. Thus we have good notices of such birds as the *Poliophtila*, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, *Helmitherus vermivorus*, *Dendroica caerulea*, *Seiurus ludovicianus*, *Oporornis formosus*, *Icteria virens*, *Myiodytes nictitatus*, *Cardinalis*, etc. The writer dwells upon the song, bringing to this matter an appreciative ear; and indeed it may be said that the whole paper is marked by results of unusually close and well-directed observation, showing the author's trained capacity for good sound field work. The list takes, without question, a fair place in our faunal series, and very acceptably complements the previous one written by Mr. Scott,² from a locality close at hand.

The "Annals of the Lyceum," in which this paper appears, are "looking up" in ornithology, at least so far as number of authors are concerned, and promise to become a more favorite medium of publication than they have hitherto been. In saying this, we do not overlook Mr. Lawrence's widely known and fully appreciated series, of fifty or sixty papers, which for many years has given the "Annals" their chief ornithological weight, as Mr. Cassin's did the Philadelphia "Proceedings." The prompt appearance of the signatures of late, and the admirable typographical execution of the Salem Press, are strong points in favor of the "Annals." The present paper appears to have been carefully read in the proof, and the more we see of scientific printing, the more we are satisfied that care bestowed upon details of typography is pains well taken. Comeliness of appearance is well worth a thought; and

¹ Some Observations on the Birds of Ritchie County, West Virginia. <Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist., N. Y., xi, 1875, pp. 129-146.

² Partial List of the Summer Birds of Kanawha County . . . <Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. xv, pp. 219, *et seq.*

attention to the shape of names tends to this result. The specific name of the house-wren is *aëdon* not *ædon*; the generic name of the wood-warblers is *Dendrocæa*, not *Dendroica*. Occasional airing of the Greek roots is as good for the health of the outgrowing words, as stirring the soil about the roots of a tree is for its vigor. In writing *Mniotilla* instead of the customary *Mniotilta*, did Mr. Brewster intend to revert to the original Vieillotian spelling? For that is the way Vieillot spells the word, if we remember rightly, in the *Encyc. Meth.*—E. C.

MORSE'S FIRST BOOK OF ZOOLOGY.¹—This charming little book will, we imagine, be immensely liked by young people, whether they use it as a text-book or receive it as a holiday present. It is designed for boys and girls, and presupposes an entire ignorance of animals on the part of the student. The plan is to teach by a study of the objects themselves. The writer tells young people how and where to look for specimens. After an excursion in search of shells, insects, etc., the author as it were, sits down by the reader with his or her hands full of the different objects, and draws their attention to the difference between them, and to the main points in their structure. There is little method in the plan of the book, and the reader is not bewildered with a "natural system" before he has learned something about the animals composing it.

The drawings are with few exceptions original, while all have been engraved expressly for the book. They add much to the attractiveness of the text. The illustrations of the parts of insects, the mode of growth of shells, and the anatomy of vertebrates, are strikingly original. The chapter on vertebrates presents matter that we think will be new to many teachers of comparative anatomy. The book is sumptuously printed and bound.

BOTANY.

SEQUOIA SEMPERVIRENS.—At a recent meeting of the California Academy of Sciences, Dr. A. W. Saxe made a preliminary report on a grove of colossal redwood trees that have been discovered on the course of the San Lorenzo, which takes its rise near Saratoga, in Santa Clara County, and debouches into the Bay of Monterey,

¹ First Book of Zoology. By Edward S. Morse, Ph.D. New York. D. Appleton & Co., 1875. 12mo. pp. 190, with 158 woodcuts. \$1.25.